

**Latimer, Becky**

282022

**From:** Latimer, Becky  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 9:38 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Duke's Mandatory Fee Hike is WRONG!

Dear Mr. John Michael Otis,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling  
 Executive Assistant  
 Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
 803-896-5133  
 Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492

**RECEIVED**  
 FEB 14 2019  
 PSC SC  
 CLERK'S OFFICE

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:32 AM  
**To:** PSC\_Contact <[Contact@psc.sc.gov](mailto:Contact@psc.sc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Duke's Mandatory Fee Hike is WRONG!

Dear SC Public Service Commission,

Below you will find boilerplate language, but I would like you to know I work in the renewable energy sector. This rate hike by Duke represents a policy so heinous in nature that it should be illegal. Duke was required by state law in 2016 (Act 236) which mandated Duke to make renewable energy 2% of it's generating capacity here in South Carolina. Much of this generation was financed through SC's 25% state tax credit in addition to the 30% Federal tax credit... so Duke has, in essence, had 2% of their power generation mostly paid for by SC's tax payers...and now they want to create a high monthly fee that truly hurts responsible homeowners' investment in solar power?

What if you paid to dig a well on your property so you wouldn't have to rely as much on gov't water services, and were then told years later the fee to access the tiny bit of water you do use (maybe \$0-\$10 per month) from the municipal or county water utility was now going to cost you over 300% more!

This is immoral. It is legalized theft. And it is yet another reason why utilities should not have a monopoly. I work in the solar industry. And I believe we need all types of generation to meet out our energy demand. Nuclear, Natural Gas, Renewables like Hydro, Wind, and Solar. Even coal plays a part. Other states with de-regulated energy are forced to be more forward thinking about how to plan for the future. If Duke is allowed to increase this fee, the Public Service Commission will be perpetuating the same mentality that led our state to fumble the failed nuclear project.

South Carolina has had too many bad power deals and it needs to end. Please stop Duke Energy's proposed hike in mandatory monthly fees. The fee hike would leave me paying at least \$336 per year before I even turn on a single light, which would be the highest mandatory monthly fee of any investor-owned utility in the nation.

The hardest hit customers by this huge fee hike will be customers who use less energy, often low-income families and seniors, who can least afford it, and households that use solar or energy efficient appliances.

By moving such a large percentage of our bills to mandatory fees that cannot be reduced, no matter how little energy I use, Duke will be taking away my ability to control my electric bill by saving energy. The high mandatory fees will mean low-usage customers will be forced to pay more for using less.

Duke made more than \$3 billion in profit in 2017 and paid their CEO \$21 million, making her the highest paid utility CEO in the nation, yet somehow they now claim they need to collect more from customers.

Duke's proposed fees are unjustified, inequitable, and bad for consumers and the environment.

Utility proposals for huge monthly fees like Duke's have been rejected by regulators and public officials around the country, and I ask that you do whatever you can to protect utility customers and stop Duke's proposal.

Copies to: SC Public Service Commission and my state legislators

Sincerely,

Mr. John Michael Otis

Columbia, SC 29204-4439